FORTIFICATIONS OF LONDON

1642

PROPERTY
OF THE
WESTLEY
RICHARDS

The Portraiture of One
Sombino Captain John Eyres
Admiral Cromwells Regt

Extracts from the MSS. of the Eyre Family.

Sir Simon Eyre.

1434.

Humphrey Eyre of Bakewell.

1630.

THE FAMILY OF EYRE.

I can trace to the year 1360, when John Eyre held two manors in the Parish of Brandon, in Suffolk, whose son, Simon Eyre, afterwards Sir Simon Eyre, appears to have been an eminent Merchant of the City of London, of which he was Sheriff in 1434, and Lord Mayor in 1445; he likewise was the founder and built Leadenhall, as a common Granary, for the City, in 1419; attached to which, on the east side of the Quadrant, was a large Chapel, which he endowed with a Brotherhood of sixty Priests, and three Free Schools. He died on the 18th of September, 1459, and was buried in the Parish Church of St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard Street, leaving for deeds of charity 5000 Marks; and he gave to the Brotherhood of the Church, the Tavern, called the Cardinal's Hat, in Lombard Street, with a mansion and sundry tenements adjoining, all which were newly built for their use by him. Under the Communion Table of the Church, according to the words expressed in the manuscripts this is copied from, there was "A very goodly marble Tombe" to his memory, of which there is in this collection a drawing, by John Eyre, with the date 1635, and one likewise of the Church of St. Mary Woolnoth.

Sir Simon left issue a son, Thomas, who had issue, Thomas, &c., which said Thomas, bought the Manor of Bakewell, in Derbyshire, and which estate I find was increased by the marriage of Humphrey, his grandson, who was the father of John, afterwards Captain John Eyre, the subject of this sketch, who was born at Bakewell, the 6th of October, 1604, and was educated at Oxford, and afterwards attended on Prince Charles in his travels. Upon his return, he became a Captain of the Red Regiment of the Train Bands of London, and a student of Gray's Inn. From the remarks in his Diary, he must have been a steady supporter of the Monarchy, until he attended the trial of Hampden, when the defence, as he expresses it, of that great man, completely opened his eyes, and caused him to alter his opinions. He then became a strong Republican, and after his introduction to Colonel Cromwell, which took place at Hampden House, Bucks, which interview, he says, was so imprinted on his memory that he feels he must follow him unto death. He then entered Cromwell's Regiment, and was present at the affair of Chalgrove Field, at the Battle of Newbury, and he was wounded as he was throwing supplies into Gainsborough. At Marston Moor he received his death wound while charging at the head of his regiment, and of which he died, after lingering three weeks, at Bakewell, on the 23rd of July, 1644.

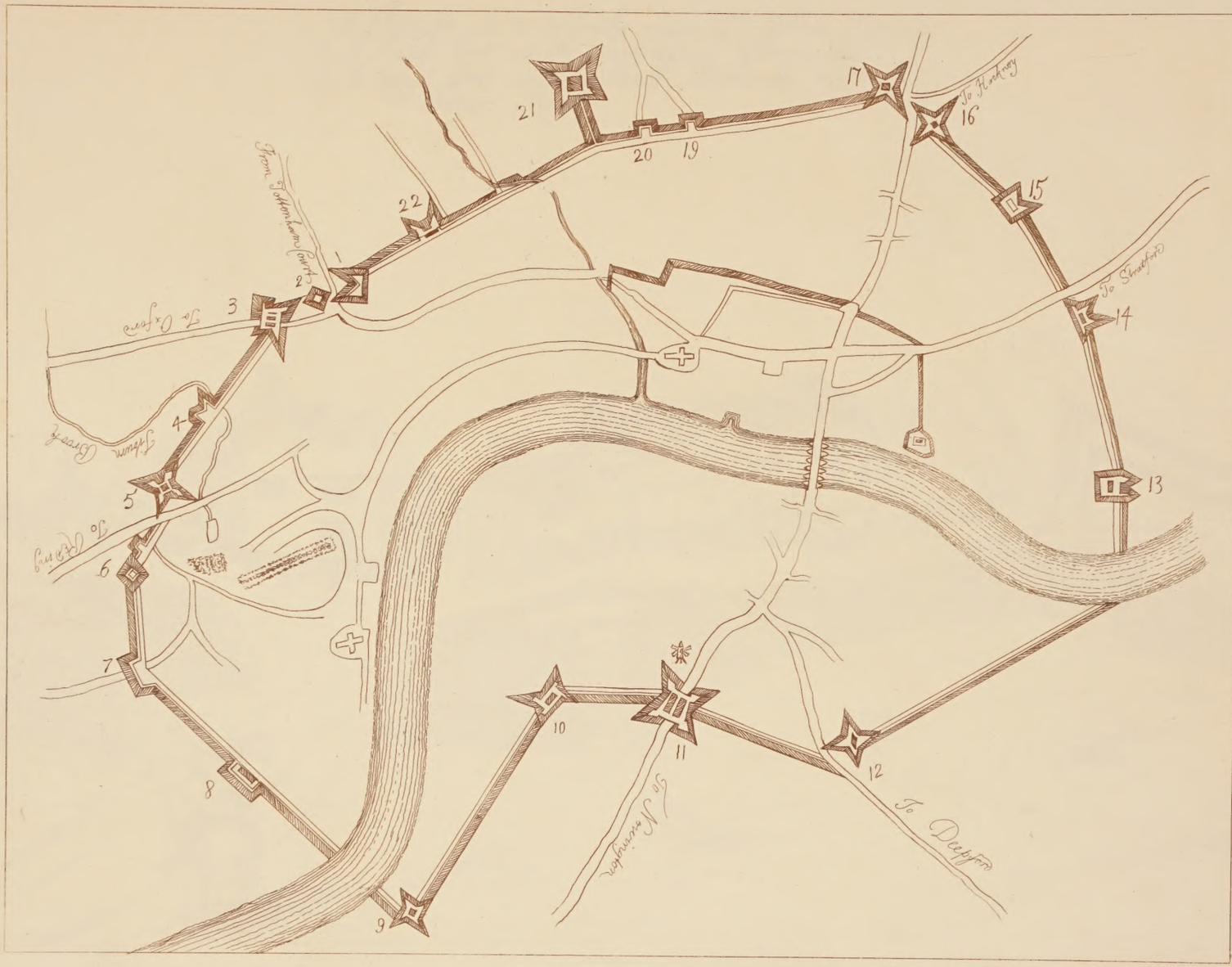
His relation, Sir John Eyre, says of him, "he was a man of great courage, and an excellent scholar; a perfect master of the French and Spanish languages, and a proficient in music and drawing, as we found at his lodgings upwards of 300 specimens of his labour." In looking over a MS. common-place book in his handwriting, there is many times mentioned the name of Hollar, no doubt the celebrated Wenceslaus Hollar. Under the date of the 6th of May, 1639, he says:—

"Went to meet Mr. Hollar at the Baptist Inn, Holbourn, and spoke with him a long time on the manner of his drawing on copper."

Again on the 4th of June:—

"Hollar called at my lodging here in Gray's Inn, and was pleased with my poor work in drawing. We afterwards walked to that nursery of military discipline, Artillery Garden, Without Moorgate."

In 1640 and 1641, I find him for many days together in company of this Mr. Hollar, sketching the tombs and monuments of the various churches of London; indeed, he appears to have continued the friendship up to the time of his being called into active service on the part of the Commonwealth.


From Tottenham Court
To Oxford
Fitzroy Square
To Charing
To Hackney
To Stratford
To Deptford
St Saviours
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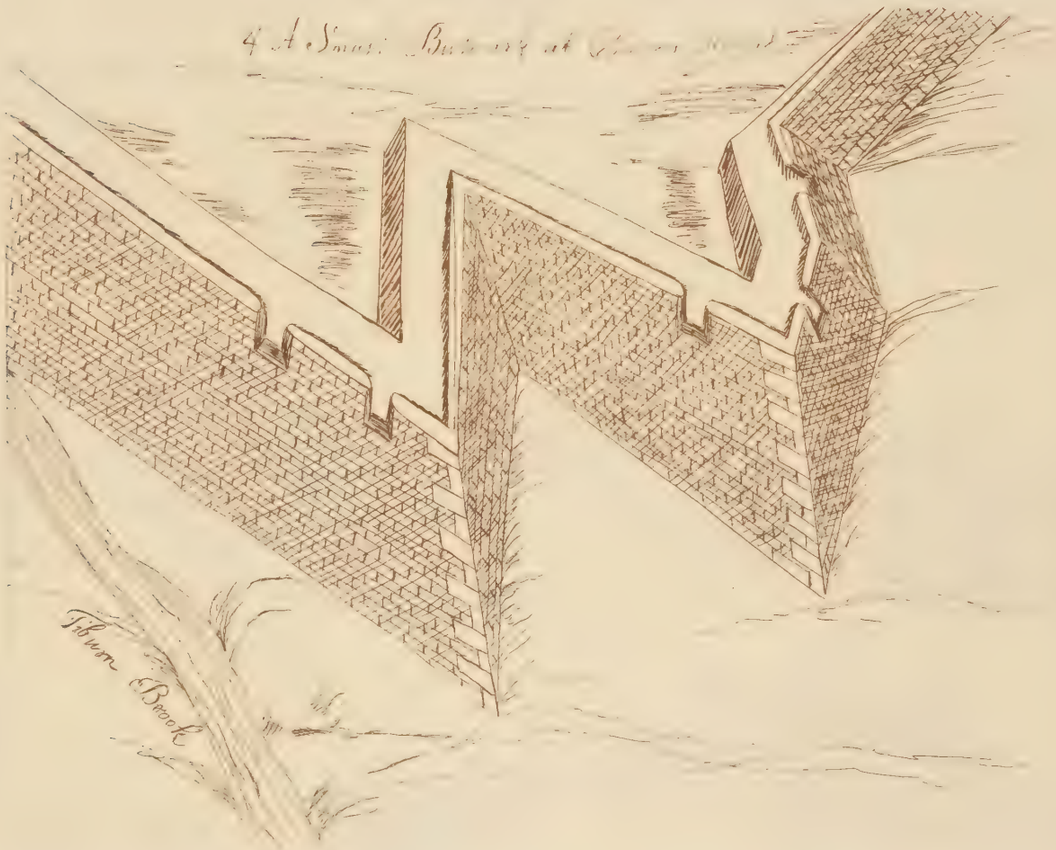
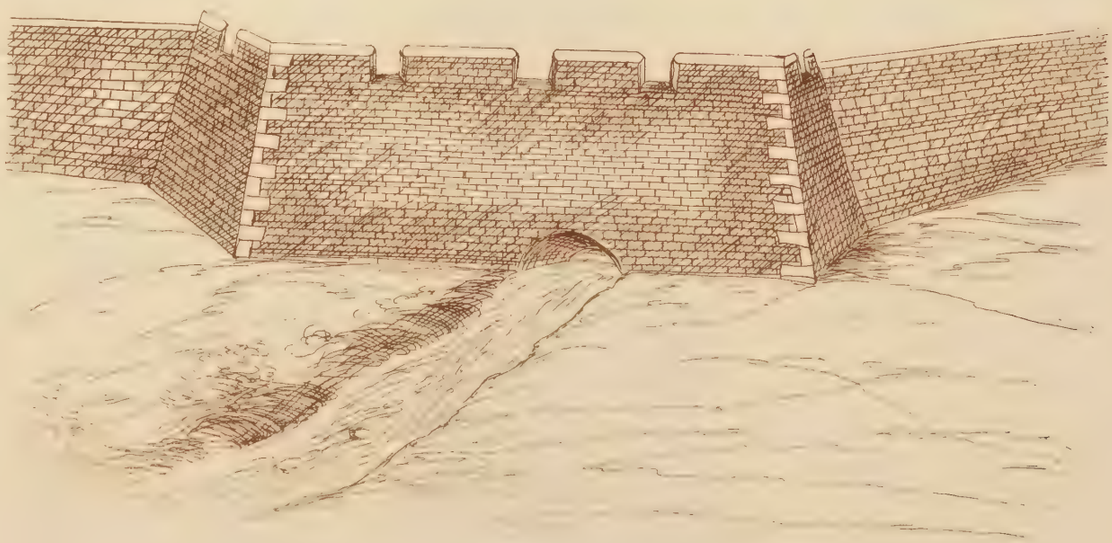
1 A Recoubt with 2 Flanks nears St Giles Pound
2 A Small Fort at the east end of Tiburn Road
3 A Large Fort with 4 Half Bulwarks across the Tiburn Road


4 A. Smith. Battery at
Tilton & Brock

5. A large Fort with 4 Bulwarks on the Roving Road beyond Tyburne Brook
7. A Small Redoubt and Battery on the Hill from St James's Park.

7 Court of Guard in Chiswell Row

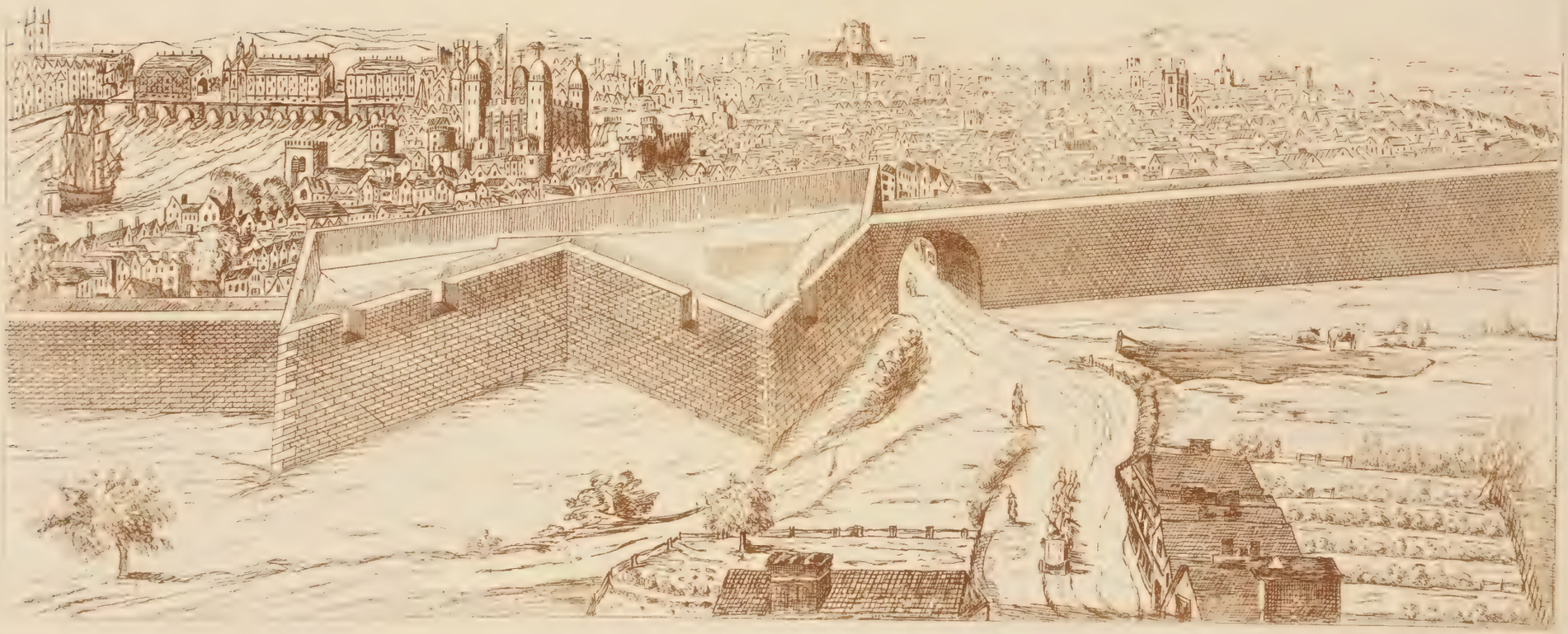
8 A Battery and Boarfurry in Cowhill Fields



10 A Foot with 4 Half Bulwarks in S^t^ Georges Fields

a. A Large Fort with 4 Bulwarks at the end of Blackfriars Street

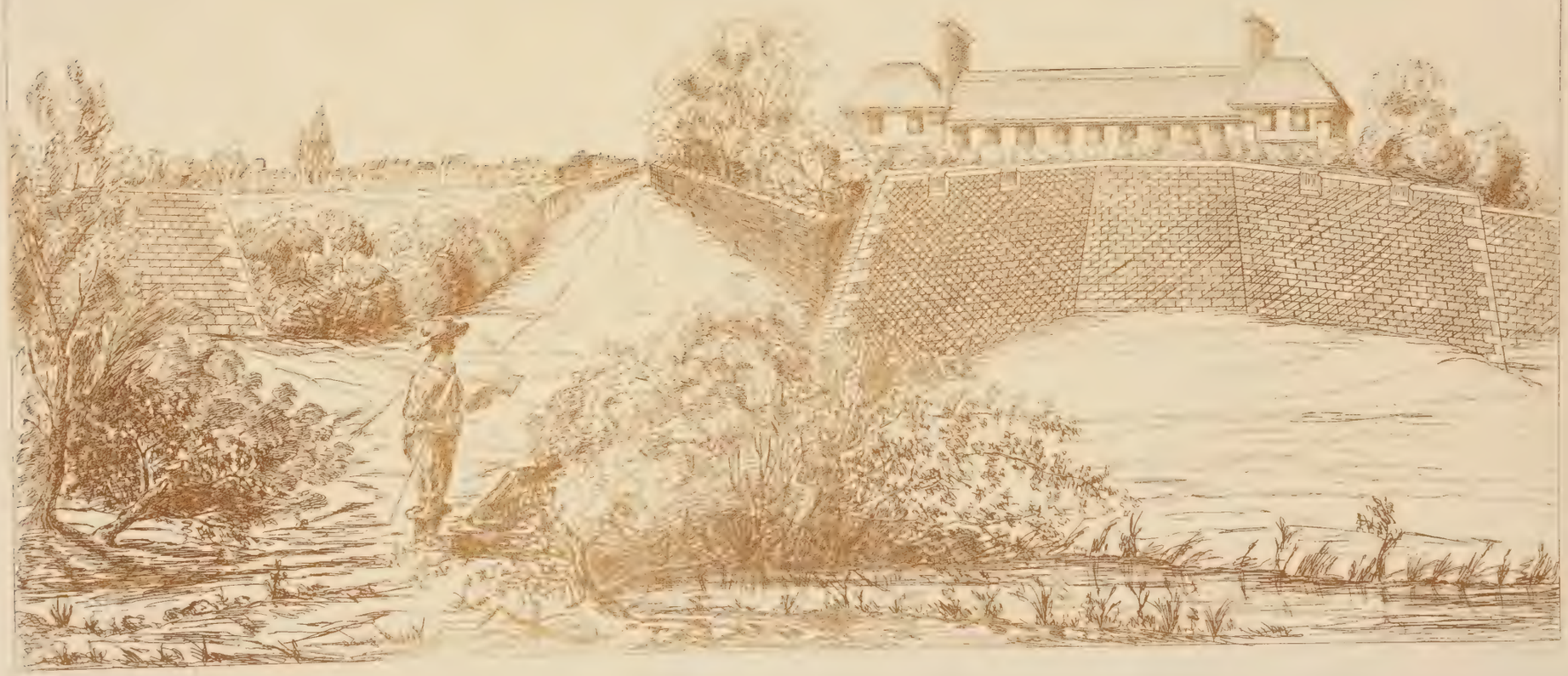
12. A Redoubt with 4 Flanks at the end of Kent Street

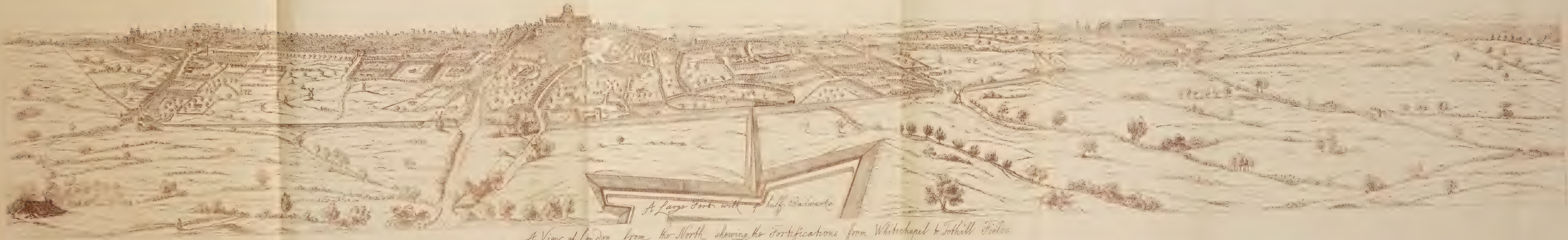


16 A Redoubt at the Hackney Corner of Shoreditch
17 A Redoubt at the [illegible] of the Road to Edmonton at Shoreditch

19. A Battery and Breastwork at the End of St Johns Street

Facsimile of an drawing of Capt. Cook upon
which the inhabitants are about to Plunder the
boat during the Commotion





A View of London from the North showing the Fortifications from Whitechapel to Tothill Fields
1642 & 1643

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